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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 VATICAN 004444

SIPDIS

FOR EUR, EUR/PD, AND EUR/EEA -KALLEGRONE

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/12/2012

TAGS: [IZ](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [PREL](#) [KPAO](#) [OPRC](#) [PREL](#) [VT](#) [VTIZ](#)

SUBJECT: HOLY SEE AND THE ROADMAP FOR IRAQ PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

REF: A. A) STATE 169975

[B](#). B) VATICAN 4398

[C](#). C) VATICAN 4388

[D](#). D) VATICAN 0444

CLASSIFIED BY: CHARGE D'AFFAIRES, D. BRENT HARDT

[1](#). (C) SUMMARY: THE HOLY SEE PRESENTS DISTINCTIVE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN REGARD TO IRAQ PUBLIC DIPLOMACY. UNLIKE MOST POSTS, OUR ""
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MOST IMPORTANT VOICES WE CAN SEEK TO INFLUENCE. AS WE HAVE RECENTLY REPORTED (REFS B AND C), THE HOLY SEE IS CONCERNED ABOUT THE IRAQI REGIME, POPE AND SENIOR VATICAN OFFICIALS. END SUMMARY.

MAKING OUR CASE

[2](#). (C) THE HOLY SEE RECOGNIZES THE SECURITY RISK POSED BY WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION, AND THE THREATS SADDAM POSES TO HIS PEOPLE AND THE REGI
FROM THE HOLY SEE'S PERSPECTIVE, BASED ON RECENT DISCUSSIONS AND PRESENTATIONS BY SENIOR VATICAN OFFICIALS, IS THE FOLLOWING:

-- A CLEAR UNDERSTANDING AS TO WHY IRAQ CANNOT BE CONTAINED SHORT OF DIRECT MILITARY ACTION;

-- COMPELLING JUSTIFICATION AS TO WHY THE THREAT FROM IRAQ IS GREATER TODAY THAN DURING THE PAST SO THAT IT WOULD REQUIRE IMMEDIATE ACTION;
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-- A COMPREHENSIVE ASSESSMENT OF THE RISKS AND POTENTIAL TO THE IRAQI PEOPLE, THE REGION, AND GLOBAL STABILITY OF BOTH TAKING ACTION VERSUS NOI

-- A CONVINCING CASE THAT THE WORLD COMMUNITY HAS EXHAUSTED ALL OPTIONS AND MUST ACT TO AVERT A GREATER CALAMITY.

ADDRESSING THE JUST WAR ISSUE

[3](#). (C) ULTIMATELY, THE HOLY SEE'S PUBLIC STANCE ON AN
INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO IRAQ -- IN PARTICULAR WHETHER IT WILL EITHER ACQUIESCE IN OR SUPPORT MILITARY ACTION IN IRAQ -- WILL DEPEND ON WHETHE
OUTLINES THE JUST WAR DOCTRINE AND HIGHLIGHTS THE VALUE OF WORKING WITH THE HOLY SEE AS WE MOVE FORWARD TO BUILD INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR OUR

[4](#). (C) THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE JUST WAR THEORY THAT WOULD NEED TO BE ADDRESSED TO MAKE INROADS WITH THE HOLY SEE
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INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

-- ANY MILITARY RESPONSE TO AN EVIL SHOULD NOT LEAD TO A
GREATER EVIL.

FM TAURAN REITERATED THIS SEPTEMBER 10 (REF B) IN AN IMPORTANT INTERVIEW IN THE ITALIAN, CHURCH-RELATED WEEKLY AVVENIRE. THIS TIES IN WITH THE

-- ANY FORCE USED SHOULD BE PROPORTIONAL TO THE DESIRED END.

IN THIS REGARD, THE HOLY SEE WOULD NEITHER ACQUIESCE IN NOR SUPPORT A MILITARY AIR CAMPAIGN THAT RESULTED IN MASSIVE IRAQI CIVILIAN CASUALTIES.

-- JUST WAR CAN ONLY BE WAGED BY A LEGAL AUTHORITY.

THE DEFINITION OF A LEGAL AUTHORITY IS OPEN TO DEBATE, BUT FM

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ACTION EUR-00

INFO LOG-00 NP-00 AMAD-00 ACQ-00 CIAE-00 INL-00 DODE-00
DS-00 VC-00 TEDE-00 INR-00 IO-00 LAB-01 VCE-00
NEA-00 DCP-01 NSAE-00 IRM-00 USIE-00 DSCC-00 DRL-02
SAS-00 /004W

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FM AMEMBASSY VATICAN

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TAURAN'S INSISTENCE THAT ANY MILITARY ACTION IN IRAQ ""SHOULD ONLY BE TAKEN AFTER A DECISION TAKEN IN THE UN FRAMEWORK,"" MAKES CLEAR THAT IN T

-- ALL OTHER REMEDIES MUST BE EXHAUSTED BEFORE RESORT TO MILITARY FORCE.

TAURAN AND OTHER OFFICIALS HAVE QUESTIONED WHETHER RECOURSE TO THE MILITARY OPTION IS THE ONLY OPTION AVAILABLE TO THE

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WORLD COMMUNITY OR THE MOST APPROPRIATE MEANS TO ENSURE A TRUE PEACE. THE HOLY SEE PREFERS DIALOGUE AND ENGAGEMENT WITHIN A FRAMEWORK OF INTEF

INFLUENCING THE HOLY SEE'S PUBLIC POSITION

15. (C) THE HOLY SEE NATURALLY VIEWS ITS ROLE AS THAT OF AN INTERNATIONAL VOICE FOR PEACE AND RECONCILIATION AND A "BUILDER OF BRIDGES" BETWEEN RATIONALE FOR ACTION, THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF ACTION ON THE REGION, AND PROSPECTS FOR STABILITY AFTER MILITARY ACTION.

16. (C) IN THE SAME WAY THE USG DEVELOPED A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL DIALOGUE WITH POPE JOHN PAUL II DURING THE COLD WAR, POST BELIEVES A SIMILAR DIALOGUE ON THE INTERNATIONAL RESPONSE TO TERRORISM WOULD DIALOGUE.

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17. (C) BEYOND SUCH DIRECT USG ENGAGEMENT, U.S. EXPERTS ON JUST WAR SUCH AS MICHAEL NOVAK ALREADY HAVE A STRONG REPUTATION WITHIN THE HOLY SEE. IN ADDITION, PROMINENT FOREIGN POLICY AUTHORITIES SUCH AS HENRY KISSINGER AND ZBIGNIEW BREZEVINSKI HAVE INDEPENDENT ACCESS TO THE HOLY SEE DIRECTLY.

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